



**Dave C Englert**  
National Vice Commandant

**Central Division**  
**Marine Corps League**

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Feb 3, 2026

To: National Commandant, T. J. Morgan  
Subject: 2026 Midwinter Report for Central Division

**Overview.** The Central Division consists of six states; Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Each department has received at least one visit in the last year. The division is recovering from the loss of ADC Jeff Krakow. Roger Smith, Ohio, was appointed to fill the vacancy with a term of office to August 2026. A caucus for the election of NVC/ADC will be held during the 2026 Central Division Conference, 19-21 March 2026 in Lexington, KY. Individual Department reports follow this report. Priority Areas of Interest within the Division are:

**Membership.** The division is building upon the success enjoyed last year in which 81 detachments and 1 Department achieved or exceeded 100% membership. The Department of Wisconsin is working on chartering a new detachment while the Division continues the work of retaining members from detachments that have reached the end of their life cycle. The goal in all cases is to transfer membership to successful detachments. Division Membership Chair Chris Taylor (IN) continues to assist Department JVC's in the performance of their duties. Also key to effective growth is the training of Department Paymasters. One third of Departments will be replacing Department Paymasters this calendar year, requiring effective training and turnover. As new department paymasters are identified, the Division will conduct training of the new paymasters allowing them to provide follow-on training of detachment paymasters within their respective departments. My goal is to have all Department Paymasters utilizing the Electronic Transmittal submission process by the end of the year which greatly reduces errors and provides substantial time and expense savings at the Department level.

**Compliance.** Each department has a compliance officer working with the division compliance officer. Departments are routinely evaluating compliance and receive assistance as needed. Every effort is made to bring detachments into compliance before suspensions or revocations are considered.

**Veterans Service.** The Veterans Service Officer program within the Division continues to be the jewel in the crown. The National VSO reports show a robust and growing program.

**Historical.** Historian Dale Erion, as the Division Historian, continues to gather images of charters within the Division as well as individual detachment histories when available.

**Youth Physical Fitness.** Central Division, through its appointed YPF Chair, Ben Matson has been engaged in creating structure and training as part of the National YPF efforts. Each department has appointed a YPF Chair. YPF will be one of the featured programs during the Division Conference.

**VAVS.** With the assistance of National VSO Phillip Du, a Division VAVS has been appointed. The job duties of this position are still be developed with the goal of improving and expanding the program across the division. Announcement of the appointment will occur after the job description is completed. Recertification and certification efforts are in full swing now that the Federal government is back to work.

The Central Division Conference will be held 19-21 March in Lexington Kentucky at the Campbell House. Training will be focused on how to establish programs in VAVS, VSO, Young Marines of the Marine Corps League, M4L, and Youth Physical Fitness. There might be cake, but no guarantees.

Department Reports follow this page.

Semper Fidelis,

*Dave Englert*

Dave C Englert

*“Once a Marine, Always a Marine”*

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
YEAR END REPORT

5 February 2026

From: Kurk P. Anderson, Commandant, Department of Wisconsin

To: Dave Englert, Central Division National Vice Commandant

Subj: DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN MID-YEAR REPORT

1. As requested, the following information is provided.
2. **Reporting by detachments** continues to be a challenge however for this period 15 of 22 provided data. Note the summary of funerals supported and total volunteer hours included in this reporting period. These numbers are very conservative as detachments continue to understand how to document activities and record volunteer hours.
3. **Support to Marine Corps Reserve Units** – Support our Marine family including 2/24 Marines Golf & Fox Co, 6<sup>th</sup> ESB Bravo Co and WI Recruiting Command through providing 1000's of meals over drill weekends & active-duty training sites, sponsoring family day, providing scholarships, housing, emergency funding, purchasing necessary supplies that budgets can't cover. Anything from GPS technology to coffee makers.
4. **250<sup>th</sup> USMC Birthday Celebrations** - Wisconsin Marines were the primary sponsors for the States 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Balls. This allowed over 1800 Active, Reserve, Past Active and League members attend a Birthday Ball this year. Over \$50,000 was donated to pay for Birthday Balls including being the primary sponsor for 2d Battalion, 24<sup>th</sup> Marines who had over 1100 attendees this year.
5. **Annual Bus Trip to Marine Corps Base Quantico & Washington D.C** – Weeklong trip when Active, Reserve, Past Active & League Members travel and fulfill our mission statement of preserving traditions & strengthening the fraternity of Marines. **This year is 9/21 -9/26**. Events include Marine Corps Museum, 8<sup>th</sup> & I Barracks, MCB Quantico, Arlington, Iwo Jima and various events. The 2025 trip took place in August including more than a dozen reservists sponsored by MCL Detachments.

## 6. Honor Guard and Color Guard participation by Detachment.

Detachment Name	Detachment #	Honor Guard Funerals	Color Guard Events	Total Volunteer Hours
Agerholm-Gross	346	158	-	1992
Badger	348	11	6	2631
Bartelme-Schwefel	349			No Report
Central Wisconsin	350	-	3	1389
Eagles Nest	1293			No Report
Four Lakes	351	20	-	5483
Fox River	590	10	3	142
Kenosha-Westosha	352			No Report
Kettle Moraine	1203			No Report
Leathernecks of the North	353			No Report
McCullen-Kimpel	552	1	7	649
Mitchell Red Cloud Jr	1363			No Report
North East Wisconsin	1130	4	4	567
North Shore	1289	-	-	250
Northwoods	1281			No Report
Sheboygan County	1446	22	6	2824
Southwestern Wisconsin	623	77	3	11602
Timberwolves	354	-	-	132
Walworth County	1061	-	7	408
Waukesha County	355	-	-	9091
Winnebago	357	40	4	1927
Wisconsin Globe & Anchor	359	3	1	726
<b>Department Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39,813</b>

Respectfully,  
KURK P. ANDERSON



## Department of Kentucky Report

2025-2026

Marine Corps League, Department of Kentucky focusing on the upcoming year (2026), during which the Marine Corps celebrated its 250th Anniversary. Although we, as a Marine Corps community, commemorate the Marine Corps Birthday each year with a traditional breakfast, balls, and cake cutting ceremonies at various venues, we had several different unique events during 2025 to highlight the significance of this historic anniversary.

We executed a Kentucky-wide coordinated celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps during 2025.

Based upon a unanimous vote of the department of Kentucky, to establish a Committee to Coordinate the Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Marine Corps within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, was adopted and implemented.

Recurring series of monthly events and press releases / media advisories that will highlight our Kentucky related Legends of the Corps, lasting throughout 2025 as a campaign to be titled "Resolved Fidelity," involving two distinct operations: "Hometown Legends" and "Freedom Run."

A. 15 January 2025: "Hometown Legends" was kick off in the Rotunda of the Kentucky State Capitol in Frankfort, with a 30-minute

presentation to recognize three (3) Marine Corps legends who were born in January: Col Rich Higgins, Col George Morgan Chinn and Captain John J. McGinty. It was concluded with Marines present renewing their enlistment and commissioned oaths. Colonel Dave Clements presided. The Rotunda was reserved, and a proposed draft of a proclamation was presented to the Governor for approval and publication, highlighting the service of Kentucky Marines to our nation over the last 250 years.

B. 23 February 2025: Ceremony at the gravesite of Franklin Sousley in Elizaville, Kentucky, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Iwo Jima flag raising.

C. 27 April 2025: Ceremony at Presley O'Bannon's gravesite in Frankfort, Kentucky to commemorate the 220th anniversary of the iconic flag being raised in Tripoli.

D. 17 September 2025 (Constitution Day): "Freedom Run," a re-institution of a past tradition where officer candidates and Marines run a relay with the national ensign from Sousley's gravesite to O'Bannon's gravesite, 76 miles.

E. 8 November 2025: Marine Corps Birthday Ball, organized, hosted, and coordinated by the Marine Corps League, Department of Kentucky, at Campbell House Hotel, Lexington, Kentucky. At a cost of over \$25,000 which was at no cost to the Department.

F. 10 November 2025: Culmination a traditional breakfast at Keeneland Race Track commemorating the actual Marine Corps 250th Birthday.

**G. OPERATION: BULLEIT PROOF 250 BULLEIT POINTS:**

(1) Tom Bulleit of Bulleit Bourbon, a KY Distillery, offered to donate a barrel of Bulleit Bourbon to the MCCCK to generate a donation from MCCCK to the Semper Fi Fund. Tom is a Navy Corpsman veteran of the Vietnam War where he served in combat with a USMC infantry battalion.

Through out the state we have a lot going on within each of our Detachments. Recruiting is strong, it is just hard to get the younger Marine to come out from family commitments.

Staying busy with the Traveling Kentucky Vietnam Wall, (which has the names of 1108 that we lost boots on ground in Vietnam from Kentucky) with events though out the state, helping Marines and Vietnam Veterans with their PTSD and family members that cannot go to DC or visit one of the large traveling walls.

Thank you and Semper Fi,  
Jack Mattingly, Commandant  
Marine Corps League  
Department Of Kentucky

**Kevin D. Keller  
Commandant  
Department of Ohio  
Marine Corps League**  
500 East Rahn Road  
Dayton, Ohio 45429

FROM: Kevin D. Keller, Commandant  
Department of Ohio, Marine Corps League

TO: Dave Englert, National Vice Commandant  
Central Division, Marine Corps League

Subject: Department of Ohio Report 2025

- 1) The Department of Ohio, Marine Corps League consist of:  
27 Detachments  
1 MODD Ohio Pack  
5 Pounds

	<u>Life Members</u>	<u>Annual Paid Members</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>
Regular	893	216	101
Associate	44	48	15
Multiple	0	0	0

Total Paid Members strength is 1,201 with a voting strength of 1,109.

I have attended the meetings of 23 of 29 Detachments since June 2025 Department Convention. Two of these, Firelands Detachment 1192 and Leatherneck Detachment 393 both conducted Special Detachment meetings to decide to continue or turn-in of the Detachment Charter. Unfortunately, both Detachments turned in their Charters reducing the number of Detachments to 27 from 29 in the Department of Ohio. All members of these two Detachments were Life members and were all transferred to Detachments of their choosing or the nearest Detachment.

In my travels to the various Detachments throughout Ohio some of the Det's were having issues with Compliance and were given advice and guidance on how to fix these issues with various points of contacts if needed. Most of these Det's have fixed the compliance issues. Department staff are working with all Detachments to stay in compliance. Most Detachments have at least two if not three members on the Bank accounts but two did not and were advised to remedy this

issue. One had a paymaster that did not want to be the paymaster anymore and after a discussion with the Detachment Commandant he was replace. Three members of the Department were found to have felony convictions on of was serving in a State Correctional Center. The one incarcerated passed away and the other signed a letter to resign his membership. The third member was sent a letter and a cover letter with a stamped self-addressed envelope at the Correctional Center where incarcerated at and I am still waiting for the return mail.

Our Department Officers and Staff continue to provide guidance and information whenever called upon. I have instructed all Department Officers to call Detachment Officers in their current positions throughout each month just to talk and to make sure everything is alright and if they need anything. They are then supposed to inform the Board of Directors on our monthly zoom meeting the fourth Sunday of every month at 7:00 p.m. I am hoping that this will open a better dialog between the Detachments and Department. This way we are not only calling when something is wrong.

The quarterly Department Conference slated for January 31, 2026, at the Sgt Bob O'Malley Detachment 1436 in Marietta, Ohio was canceled due to the extreme bad weather and the travel conditions. Our next Department Conference will be March 14, 2026, at the Elton E. Macklin Detachment 837. Our Department Convention is to be held June 4,5, and 6<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, Ohio Hosted by the Eugene H. Doak Walker Detachment 963.

Our District Vice Commandants are visiting their Detachment as much as possible along with emails and cell phone conversations. We have been contacted in three different areas of the Department of Ohio wanting information on starting new Detachments. We are currently working with these three areas to make this a reality.

The Department Commandant is currently a member of the Board for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services that meets quarterly in Columbus, Ohio. To be on this board the Veterans Organization must have at least one VSO or Veterans Service Officer Nationally certified and of course Ohio right now has three VSO's and actively recruiting a fourth. One of VSO from Columbus Don Perry passed away. David Owsley was moved from Cincinnati to Columbus Office and is now still working in Columbus and Cincinnati until a new VSO is hired and certified.

August 8, 2026, the Ohio Department of Veterans Service is holding a convention at Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio which we have an application for a table at this event. Awaiting the approval for this event from them.

Our Department Paymaster will be holding a Paymaster Classes throughout the Department to improve the communication and knowledge for each of the Detachments in the Department. Each District will hold a class. This will be for any member who wishes to attend. In my travels to the Detachments, I having instructed that the members pay their dues no later than the July meeting to the Detachment Paymaster and that the Paymaster start asking in May for dues. This gives each paymaster time to process the transmittals and submit to the Department Paymaster. Some paymasters I have talked with are waiting for October to submit their transmittals.

All our Detachments are active in their communities and of course Toys for Tots program. The Commandant, Senior Vice, Junior Vice along with all Department Officers are staying very busy within the Department helping our Veterans, families and community.

I have six Detachments to visit to complete all 29 Detachments. I am confident that I will accomplish this task. I have installed Officer in two Detachments and scheduled to installed a third Detachment in February.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin D. Keller  
Commandant  
Department of Ohio  
Marine Corps League

MCL DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
TRACEY TIPPETT  
DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT

**The Detachments in Michigan continue to progress effectively. All Zone Vice Commandants are performing commendably, ensuring that Detachments remain compliant and submit all required documentation. One Detachment has relinquished its Charter, and there is a possibility that another may do so in the near future.**

**The Department Junior Vice has demonstrated exceptional initiative by engaging with Detachments regarding membership matters, addressing delinquent members, and providing comprehensive assistance as needed. The Department Senior Vice continues to contribute innovative fundraising strategies, the Judge Advocate maintains thorough oversight of departmental affairs, and the entire Department Staff consistently performs their duties at a high standard of excellence.**

**As with all Detachments, membership retention remains a challenge. While ongoing recruitment efforts are vital, encouraging active participation among existing members is equally important. We continually seek innovative strategies to enhance our Detachments, Auxiliaries, and Department.**

**The Department and Auxiliary remain committed to advancing the State of Michigan Marine Corps League and Auxiliaries. Our organizations collaborate effectively and consistently pursue progress while adapting constructively to any changes that occur.**

**Semper Fi**

**Tracey Tippett**

**Department Commandant-Michigan**